

What is claimed is:

1. A battery mounting structure for use in a small watercraft comprising a vessel body having a hull comprising a lower portion of the vessel body, and a deck for covering placement on top of the hull, an engine disposed in the vessel body, a drive shaft extending rearwardly from the engine for driving a propeller, and a drive shaft supporting box for supporting the drive shaft at the midsection thereof,

said battery mounting structure comprising a battery support tray for supportively holding a battery thereon and a contacting member integrally formed with said battery support tray for contacting part of a drive shaft supporting box;

wherein at least part of said battery mounting structure is adapted for placement on top of the drive shaft supporting box.
2. The battery mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising at least one securing strap for use in securing said battery to said battery support tray.
3. A battery mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising structure for

accommodating any one of a number of different-sized batteries.

4. A battery mounting structure of claim 1, wherein said battery tray comprises a plurality of hooks to receive securing straps thereon to secure a battery to said battery mounting structure.

5. A battery mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising drain holes selectively located about the horizontal surface thereof.

6. The battery mounting structure of claim 1, further comprising a platform section integrally formed with said battery tray for supporting a magnet box thereon.

7. The battery mounting structure of claim 6, further comprising at least one reinforcing rib extending between said battery tray and said platform section.

8. A method of mounting a battery in a personal watercraft having a

longitudinal axis, said method comprising the steps of:

a) installing a battery mounting apparatus in said personal watercraft behind an engine and above a drive shaft support box of said watercraft;

b) placing a battery on a support tray of said battery mounting apparatus,
and

c) placing battery restraints on said battery to hold it in place on said support tray, whereby said battery is emplaced proximate the longitudinal axis of said watercraft.